Choose toys for kids carefully

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent

The season is fast approaching when parents, grandparents and others go shopping for toys. The array of space travel play things and true-to-life baby dolls is bewildering. It is difficult to choose a particular toy for a particular child when confronted with 5,000 new items and approximately 150,000 toys introduced in previous years.

The following guidelines will help you select the right toy:

1. Consider the child's age, interest and abilities before shopping for toys. Note the age guidelines printed on many toy packages. Most of them carry this now.

2. Don't buy toys impulsively. Both you and your children will enjoy their new playthings more if you carefully consider the types of toys that capture your children's interest. Try not to restrict your purchases only to those kinds of toys that you enjoyed in your childhood.

3. Select playthings with some degree of realism. Psychologists suggest that realistic toys (playthings that are scaled down models of real life objects) help children to become inventive and imaginative in their play. The older the child, the more realistic the toy should be.

4. Look for toys that provide a variety of play experiences. While very young children may simply stack a sack of blocks, slightly older children may use the same blocks to represent a city or town or farm, using their other toys such as cars, dolls and animals as props. There are many toys that suggest a variety of activities to children and encourage them to use their imagination in play.

5. Gradually introduce more complex versions of familiar playthings. For example, board games for younger children should be simple and governed by chance. As children grow and learn strategy, games requiring skill can be introduced. Observe children's play to determine when they are ready for the next, more complex play experience.

6. Spread your toy budget throughout the year. Don't overwhelm children with too many new toys at once. Use birthdays, a rainy day, the start of family vacations and other occasions to introduce new toys and new play experiences.

7. Involve your children in the toy selection process. Learn to play. Also means learning to make decisions. Discussing toy selection with children encourages them to think for themselves and live with the consequences of their decisions. It is a valuable lesson in consumer education. However, include a few surprises among the child's Christmas gifts.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or write us at P.O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Special announcement: Please remember that Christmas Open House will be held Nov. 3-7 in the District Extension Office auditorium. This annual event is sponsored by the homemakers of Appomattox County. If you wish to exhibit, you should have your items for display in place by 4 p.m. on Oct. 31. The hours for Open House are: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Homemakers, have a good week!

Good news for homemakers

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Lisa's Hawaiian Supreme Cake

1 box Lemon Supreme cake mix
1 box vanilla instant pudding
3 eggs
1/2 cup cooking oil
One 10-ounce bottle 7-Up

Put all ingredients in bowl and mix well. Pour into three 9-inch cake pans that have been well greased. Bake 30 to 35 minutes at 325 degrees F.

Frosting

1 large can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple (drained)
3 eggs slightly beaten
1½ cups sugar
1 stick margarine
3 heaping tablespoons flour

Mix together and cook over medium heat. Stir and cook until thick. Add 1 can (one and one-third cups) coconut. Spread between layers, on sides and on top of cake.

Thanks to Lisa Campbell for sharing this delicious cake recipe. Lisa won a blue ribbon and Best-in-Show award on this cake at the recent Railroad Festival Bake-Off Contest.

PICTURED ABOVE are the parents and grandparents of kindergarteners David Evans (mother to the left), and Christopher Przeniolo (mother in center).

Informal coffee held at APS

Parents in attendance at the Appomattox Primary School PTA coffee hour last week reviewed the components of a good primary instructional program.

These components of the learning environment develop the entire domain of the four-and five-year-old. This means kindergarten instruction teaches children how to get along with others, after first understanding their own feelings.

"3R's" are taught in kindergarten. Writing may be developing circles, vertical and horizontal lines. Arithmetic involves classification and comparisons. Reading opportunities include such skills as listening, relating parts of a story that has been read, anticipating endings for stories, and matching symbols and pictures.

Kindergarten first began in Appomattox County in 1973. Today, evaluation occurs constantly through monitoring and consistent in-service training for personnel.

Trends that merit great attention for the future are: awareness of more research available concerning child growth patterns; how children learn through auditory, visual, and kinesthetic approaches; child's concept of self is taking an added importance in planning daily learning experiences; and children under stress are being researched compared to the child allowed the time for himself and to himself.

"Constructive Play" is a time to be creative in learning a pattern for learning; for hopefully they will be learners—always.

The next PTA Coffee on November 6, 1980, at 9:30 on "Parent-Teacher Conferences".

Seminar planned on check problem

The Appomattox County Adult Marketing program is offering a 3-hour seminar in bad check prevention.

This class is a must for all cashiers and bank tellers. Bad checks are on an uprise today and no-one can afford the losses.

The course is programmed towards check cashing procedures, ways to reduce bad check losses, and tips for employers. In addition legal aspects will be discussed in length.

This course is co-sponsored by the Appomattox Sheriff Department and the county marketing program. The Sheriff department strongly encourages all local banks, retail and service establishments, and all other merchants to participate.

Bad checks prevention will be held on Monday, November 3, 1980 from 6:30 until.....at the Appomattox County High School, Room 305. For more information please contact, Mr. Moon at 352-5317.

Received any bad checks lately? If so this class was designed for you!

DMV offices to close

All Division of Motor Vehicle offices and driver's testing stations will be closed Tuesday, November 4, Election Day, and Tuesday, November 11, Veterans Day.

Many vehicle license agencies will be open those days, however, and DMV suggests you call first to be sure.

Otherwise, DMV offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8:30 to 4:30, and Thursday, 10:00 to 6:00.

'81 wheat info released

By TOM CONRAD

1981 Wheat Program Preliminary information for the 1981 Wheat Program has been announced to assist farmers in their fall planting intentions of wheat for harvest in 1981.

--No set aside land required.

--Plant within farm's normal crop acreage (NCA).

--Not exceed NCA on any other farm with wheat planted for which you have complete control.

--Target Price - at least $3.81 per bushel.

--Loan Rate - Minimum of $3.00 per bushel.

--Disaster Coverage.

--Paid diversion and/or haying and grazing only if evident wheat supplies will be excessive in 1981.

Emergency Feed Program - Applications are now being taken for producers who: 1) do not have sufficient feed for livestock from now until May 1 and, 2) will be buying feed in quantities larger than normal. To be eligible, the applicant must have lost more than 40% of his total 1980 feed production.

When you come in to apply, we will need to know the following information:

1. Kind, number and ages of livestock.
2. Number of acres in pasture.
3. Amount of feed you have on hand at the time of application (corn, hay, silage).

When you buy the feed from a seller, there is certain information that must be on the receipt before it is eligible for cost-share assistance. It must show:

1. Date of purchase
2. Amount of purchase.
3. Kind and type of feed purchased (corn, alfalfa).
4. Price of feed purchased.
5. Date feed is delivered to your farm.

The receipt must be the original and must be signed by the seller. ASCS will need to keep the receipt for our records. The payment will be based on your receipts (weight tickets) and will be 50% of the purchase cost not to exceed 3 cents per converted pound.

ASCS TODAY
By Tom Conrad

Happiness is 4-H

American Federal Savings and Loan will once again sponsor the Appomattox County 4-H Share-the-Fun Program. Special ribbons and awards will be provided for Share-the-Fun participants. The final Share-the-Fun show will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in the ACHS auditorium. Annually more than 200 young people take part in Share-the-Fun programs in Appomattox.

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The 1979-80 4-H project records are being judged at this time. Ribbons will be awarded to all 4-Hers who submitted completed projects based on the Danish system. Project records will be returned to 4-Hers in November.

***

Tentative plans are being made for an Interstate exchange program with Oconto County, Wisconsin. Oconto County is located on Lake Michigan and is approximately 50 miles north of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Teen 4-Hers will be surveyed to determine if there is sufficient interest to pursue details for an exchange program. Appomattox 4-Hers have been involved in past exchange programs with Tennessee, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

***

Now is the time for 4-Hers interested in wildlife to begin plans for feeding birds during the winter months. Feeders may need to be built or repaired before cool weather. Feeders should also be filled with seed so birds will find the food before severe weather sets in. Many enjoyable hours can be spent studying and learning to identify the visitors to a bird feeder.

***

4-H members who have recently taken horse projects may be interested in two publications called "Horses and Horsemanship" and "Horse Science" which are both very informative and helpful. These two booklets are available from the Extension Office at the cost of thirty cents each.

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A reminder that Appomattox 4-Hers will attend Holiday Lake 4-H Camp during the week of June 15-19, 1981.

PWP slates dance

The Lynchburg Chapter of Parents Without Partners will sponsor a Harvest Dance for singles only Saturday night, November 1 from 9 to 1 o'clock at the Moose Lodge #1727 on Leesville Road.

Music will be furnished by the KIKS and tickets are on sale at Paper and Paperbacks and Lynchburg Camera Shop or from any PWP member, or by calling 239-2120 or 239-5317.

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Medium Ring (18G)	$139.20	$94.00
Small Ring (12G)	$93.64	$63.00
Thin Ring (5G)	$51.80	$26.15

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Giant Size (15G)	$155.40	$116.80
Extra Large (12G)	$126.52	$93.64
Large Ring (8G)	$93.24	$62.60
Medium Ring (6G)	$69.00	$51.15
Small Ring (4G)	$51.60	$34.84
Thin Ring (3G)	$37.00	$27.00

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Ends 56-day test

Bulls weighed

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Last Wednesday the Senior Bulls at Red House were weighed concluding 56 days on test. When the fourteen day adjustment period gain is added to the official test, the bulls have averaged gaining 212 pounds in 70 days.

Beef producers will enjoy visiting the test center--see the new sale barn and observe an outstanding set of bulls and heifers.

* * *

The Annual DHIA Meeting is set for November 21. A high percentage of Appomattox producers are testing, but I'm not satisfied until all are using this service.

In Virginia there are 883 herds, averaging 93 cow years/herd and producing 14,716 pounds of milk and 527 pounds fat. All up from a year earlier. Milk production alone is up 252 pounds.

* * *

The tobacco industry contributed $57 billion to the U. S. economy last year. Retail spending an all tobacco products totaled $21.3 billion and gross city, county sales and excise taxes on cigarettes totaled $129 million in 1979.

* * *

As cool weather closes in, we get a number of calls about spiders moving into the home. Diazinon does a good job controlling this insect if necessary. Pesticides work slowly when the temperature drops. Remember, spiders are predators of other insects and are considered useful insects.

Some reports come in about black widow spiders--these you need to be careful with and not hesitate to control. Be careful when disturbing old plant residue, plastic or wood piles.

* * *

Watch for aphids on small grains. They can damage the crop and more importantly transmit a disease called Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus.

The appearance of small yellow or brown areas caused by aphid feeding indicate a need for treatment. Here are some guidelines for treating: on young plants a population of 25 to 50 aphids per linear foot or row warrants treatment or:

Plant Height	Aphids/Linear Foot
3 - 6"	100
4 - 8"	200
6 - 16"	300

Aphids and the virus disease they spread can significantly reduce small grain yields.

Early planted grain is more likely to have aphid problems than late planted grain.

Aphid populations can be greatly reduced with timely chemical application.

For consistant high yields of small grains, aphids must be considered in management plans.

Scouting to determine aphid population is the best way to make management decisions.

If Di-Syston is used, be extra careful. It is extremely toxic and it can be absorbed through the skin fairly easy.

* * *

We strongly believe that the using of the predictive nematode soil test program will either save or make you money for tobacco, corn and soybeans.

Only one person has taken samples so far--it should be in the hundreds.

* * *

Last chance for re-certification for Private Applicator Permits in 1980--coming up November 3, 7:30 P.M. High School Vo-Ag Department, Room 327; and November 13, 7:30 P.M., Pamplin Elementary School.

* * *

PRECIPITATION:

LAST WEEK	.84
THIS MONTH	1.95
THIS YEAR	26.98

"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

4-H club news

By SUSAN CARNEFIX

Mrs. Humphrie's 4-h Club

Mrs. Humphrie's 5th grade 4-H Club met on Thursday, October 16.

Mr. Sweet went over the different projects we could get. We put the projects we wanted on our enrollment cards. Mr. Sweet told us about Share-the-Fun in late November.

Kathy White and Beth Marston led us in some songs and games. Kim Fuller read the minutes. Kevin Armentrout led us in the "Pledge Allegiance," Roni Johnson led us in the 4-H Pledge, Rhonda Ranson adjourned the meeting.

THE MASONIC LODGE 301 in Appomattox presented the Brownie Troop 308 with a United States flag. Pictured here are the girls and leaders accepting the flag from Master Mason Mr. Kermit Campbell. From left to right, Katina McCoy, Denise Drinkard, Julie Notestein, Kathy Higgins, Jennifer White, Stacey Myrick, Jennifer Nash, 2nd row, Yvette Pennix, Jennifer Phelps, Lolize Forrest, Shannon Williams, Tamera Turner, Jennifer Haskins, Roxanne Williams, Jennifer Notestein, Angie Winans, and Lori Harris. 3rd row, Annette Williams, Jeanette Drinkard, Kermit Campbell, and Sunny Harris.

Youths visit businesses

Editor's note: The following story was written by Jeff Agee, a fifth grader at Appomattox Elementary School, describing a recent field trip his class took.

The fifth grade field trip to Torrence Farm and Pipe Factory.

What an exciting day we had visiting the Torrence Farm in Appomattox and the Pamplin Clay Pipe Factory in Pamplin! These field trips were planned for those of us who are students in Mrs. Layne's and Mrs. Davis' fifth grade classes. Our buses departed the elementary school at 9:30 and returned at 1:30. We made sure our lunches were packed early that morning.

First we went to the Pipe Factory. We had a seat and Mr. Dickerson told us how to make a clay pipe. Also he told us about the one hundred year old kiln, the building, items that were in the building and other necessary facts. We learned a little about the history of clay pipes. He led us outside and showed us the windmill. Also he showed us one of the wells, and pointed out the kiln. Later we went into the showroom. He told us a little about the items in it. Then he gave us a very interesting clay pipe. We enjoyed lunch under two shade trees. This rest period prepared us for the next stop.

At the Torrence Farm, Mr. Torrence told us about solar heat. He has five panels on the roof of the building where he stores the milk. He uses this to heat the water. After that we got back on the bus. When we were back in the school we were all pleased with our adventuresome day.

Childress advances

Marine Pvt. Michael L. Childress, son of Patricia Flynn of Route 2, Box 32R, Concord, Va., has completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

During the 11-week training cycle, he learned the basics of battlefield survival. He was introduced to the typical daily routine that he will experience during his enlistment and studied the personal and professional standards traditionally exhibited by Marines.

He participated in an active physical conditioning program and gained proficiency in a variety of military skills, including first aid, rifle marksmanship and close order drill. Teamwork and self-discipline were emphasized throughout the training cycle.

He joined the Marine Corps in January 1980.

Study Program

Roman kids?

The social studies students of Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Almond and Mrs. Coleman of the Appomattox Elementary School have just begun a study of the Roman Empire.

To begin this study the students researched the lifestyle of the early Romans including their architecture, and clothing.

The classes divided into groups of four and five to produce a background picture for their group. Using this artistic background of what their research revealed Rome to look like thousands of years ago the students dressed as ancient Romans and posed for group snapshots.

Their clothing included the tunic, a straight knee length garment, the toga, the symbol of manhood, the bulla, a fine chain necklace with a golden locket. As well as sandals and headbands.

The students will now go on to study what made Rome a great empire as well as the causes of its decline.

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As for the bird, the day someone decides to take a long shot, it could trigger potential emergencies in lots of homes and businesses.

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